

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 18 remains pending in the application with the present amendments. Claim 18 is amended to include recitations similar to those which formerly appeared in claim 19. The present amendments place the application in better condition for appeal and do not raise new issues requiring additional consideration or a search. Thus, the amendments herein are enterable after the final Office Action.

In the final Office Action, claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,502,073 to Guan et al. ("*Guan*") and claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Guan* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,649 to Hoory et al. ("*Hoory*"). For the reasons set forth below, applicants submit that the presently pending claims are fully distinguished from *Guan* and *Hoory*.

As amended herein, claim 18 recites that the second information processing process includes steps of receiving the character data via the network, generating second speech information from the received character data, outputting the received character data, and using the second speech information to output speech.

By contrast, neither *Guan* nor *Hoory* teach these features of the invention recited in claim 18. *Guan* neither teaches nor suggests outputting character data received over a network that is changed from the input speech information. While *Guan* describes the network transmission of information describing inputted speech, *Guan* neither teaches nor suggests outputting that information as character data, or that such information would be outputtable. While *Hoory* describes outputting character data obtained by recognition of speech, *Hoory* neither teaches nor suggests generating second speech information from received character data and using the second speech information to output speech.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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